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Pages 3-4

LP News

The Party of Principle™

June 2013

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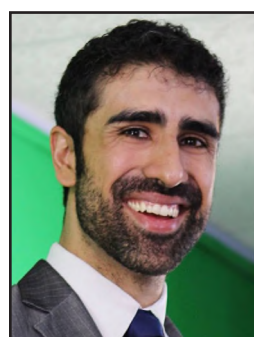
LP Facebook page showcasing Libertarian Solutions takes off

A new focus on Libertarian Solutions, especially those that feature Libertarian candidates running for office, is fueling rapid growth of the Libertarian Party's Facebook page. In the past year, the page attracted 123,000 new followers, a 57 percent increase.

Arvin Vohra, at-large representative on the Libertarian National Committee and former congressional candidate for LP Maryland, has been the primary driver of a new Facebook strategy that combines colorful, eye-catching graphics and a touch of humor with bold Libertarian Solutions created by a diverse team of Libertarian volunteers.

Central to Vohra's strategy is crowdsourcing, the practice of pooling ideas, skills, and content from a large group of contributors in an online community. Vohra started a two-person team in 2012 for posting new content, along with former LNC representative John Jay Myers, and rapidly expanded the effort to include activists throughout the United States.

More than 50 active Libertarian volunteers across the country have lent their skills and ideas to the LP Facebook page. By originating content that reflects their

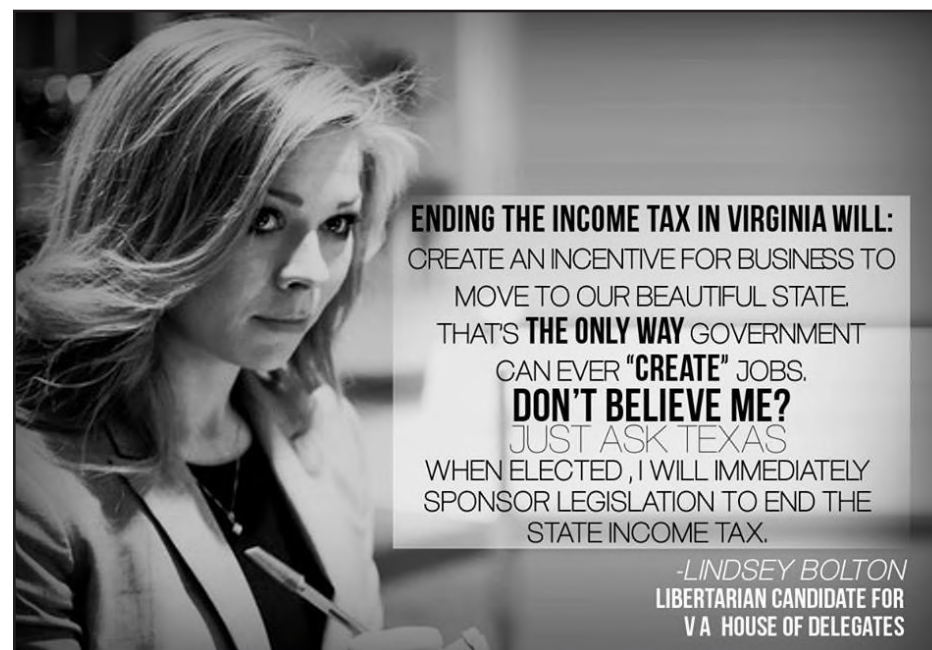


Arvin Vohra

own vantage points, individual LP Facebook volunteers produce a variety of content that can connect with new audiences who are waiting to encounter Libertarian ideas.

"Just as we believe parents make better decisions for schools than the state, we believe that individual Libertarians are the best at deciding what would most effectively convince their friends and family members," Vohra said. "We put out a variety of material to give Libertarians different options on what to use to bring their friends and family over to the cause of freedom."

continued on page 6...



Memes featuring Libertarian Solutions created by the LP Facebook team.

CHAIR'S CORNER

All politics is personal

by Geoffrey J. Neale, Chair



Former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, a power broker of immense skill and influence, coined the phrase "All Politics Is Local." This is completely true, when taken in the context of how it was meant.

Some libertarians think this means that only local-level activity matters, and national politics is inconsequential. That's not what O'Neill meant.

O'Neill meant that most people vote based upon how their vote affects them personally. They vote based upon how they think the candidates will affect their lives. Most voters do not vote based upon high concepts and philosophy.

Does anyone really think that O'Neill, the most powerful person in the U.S. government after the president, was endorsing a "bottom up" approach to government? If so, he never voted that way in his life.

From Wikipedia:

"During the 1982 Congressional elections, O'Neill's seat was challenged by Massachusetts lawyer Frank McNamara, who had financed most of his campaign with money from oil interests in Oklahoma and Texas. Voters in Massachusetts, plagued by oil prices and a poor economy for many years, felt no love for McNamara and his oil money and instead mocked him as he announced his candidacy on the steps of the US Capitol.

"Later during those elections, O'Neill introduced a \$1-billion jobs bill to the table. House Republican

Leader Robert H. Michel of Peoria, Illinois opposed the bill, but O'Neill delivered an address broadcast in Peoria that showed how many infrastructure problems in Peoria would be fixed by the bill.

"By hitting his rival where he lived, O'Neill translated a wholesale debate over national economic policy to the local, retail level," said Chris Matthews of the MSNBC show Hardball."

O'Neill's practice of this philosophy diverges greatly from any libertarian solution, but his point, when taken in the context of what he meant, is absolutely true.

Since "all politics is local" — or *personal* — we must emphasize to the voters how a vote for a Libertarian will affect their daily lives. Our executive director, Carla Howell, is the driving force within our party of "Libertarian Solutions," and she has it completely right. We must promote exactly how we will change the political reality on the most local level of all — voters' own lives. Philosophy is foundational, but it's a hard sell. Money in your pocket is an easy sell. Freedom and liberty is a hard sell, but being able to own a gun, or smoke a cigar, or marry whom you want is a much easier sell.

Tip O'Neill observed that people vote based upon how it will affect their lives. Would we have it any other way?

Yours in liberty,

The following individuals became Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party between March 19, 2013, and June 12, 2013:

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LPNews

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The party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and supporting party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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Don't miss your chance for Naming Rights on the David F. Nolan Memorial Building

Great news! The Libertarian National Committee is ready to buy an office space for the party's new national headquarters in the Washington, D.C., area, which will substantially reduce the party's annual operating costs. This building will be named the David F. Nolan Memorial Building, in honor of our party's founder.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have your name appear inside this historic building, right alongside David Nolan's.

Naming opportunities are strictly limited. Many have pledged and will donate soon. All donations will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. So please don't wait. Place your name next to David Nolan's by selecting the naming opportunity that's right for you today, before it's too late!

David F. Nolan Memorial Building Fund Donors as of June 10 are listed on page 4.



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Libertarian wins Page, AZ, city council election

Aims to cut millions in spending, taxes

The city council of Page, Ariz., has a new member fighting to promote economic growth by cutting millions of dollars in spending and cutting taxes. Libertarian Levi Tappan received 816 votes (23.3 percent), the highest vote total among six candidates competing for three open seats.



Levi Tappan

A lifelong resident of the city, Tappan credits his widespread presence in the community as one of the deciding factors in his election.

"I kept a real low budget and went door to door, talking to people," Tappan said.

Tappan had an early taste of his eventual electoral success during the March 12 primary. During that contest, the ex-Marine scored 15.9 percent of the vote. He finished second in a field of 10 candidates, which included prominent local businessmen and members of the community. He lagged behind the winner, well-known local businessman Dennis Warner, by only 1.2 percent.

"I hope my victory brings more youth to pay attention to the policies that affect all of us," Tappan wrote on his Facebook campaign page. "I see more Libertarians coming out every day."

Like many residents of Page, Tappan is concerned about the constantly rising cost of city government.

"The city budget has grown from about \$15 million to \$20 million over the last 10 years, and the population has practically remained the same," he said.

He noted that the city has financed its most recent development projects through heavy borrowing, and ended up \$16 million in debt. Just servicing this debt, he pointed out, now costs Page \$1.2 million per year.

Tappan said that privatizing some money-losing facilities like the municipal golf course and a city-owned sports complex could be part of the answer. Another obvious way to cut spending, he suggested, would be to rein in routinely excessive police overtime requests.

Tappan, who works as a sonographer at the local hospital, believes that his decisive victory on Election Day represents a mandate from Page voters.

"From my numbers, it sounds like the citizens liked my ideas, so that's what I'm going to go with," he said.

GA Libertarian fights to cut property taxes, federal funding, school mandates

After spending less than a year on the city school board in Marietta, Ga., elected Libertarian Brett C. Bittner can claim his first success in reining in government spending.

"Our 2014 budget is predicated on a decrease of property taxes," said Bittner, who leads the Libertarian Party of Georgia as its executive director. "And so is our 2015 budget projection."

Although the property tax rate decreases are modest — of 0.48 mills and 0.71 mills, respectively (one mill equals 1/1,000 of a dollar), they represent a positive reversal in a system that has for years drained the wallets of local residents.

Bittner said that the board was able to reduce its tax claim because of a gradual revival of the Marietta real estate market that has plagued the housing industry since the 2008 crisis. More homes are being built and more units are coming out of foreclosure, he said.

This year, he also fought valiantly against a Cobb County



Brett Bittner

continued on page 14...

CT Libertarian aims to boldly downsize city government backed by full slate of LP candidates

Veteran Libertarian William H. Russell believes the city of Norwich, Conn., has hit bottom — and only Libertarians can salvage it. Russell plans to run a full slate of Libertarian Party candidates in the Nov. 5 local elections for the first time in local history.



William H. Russell

Russell has already qualified for the mayoral ballot. He is now in the process of assembling six candidates for city council, one for treasurer, and six more for the board of education.

Three candidates — Michael Holman, Kyle D. Gray and Ashley Pyski — have already signed up for the City Council race, Russell said. Given voter disgust with the current officeholders, he is optimistic about recruiting the remaining 10.

"We have people leaving in droves," Russell said. "The employment situation is terrible. The only jobs you can find are minimum wage jobs, and you can't live in Norwich on that amount of money."

A crushing tax burden, in his view, is depressing the amount of investment and other business activities occurring in Norwich, making the city an unattractive place to live.

"My own property taxes went up 100 percent over the past seven years," Russell said. "People are fed up. They are selling and moving to other places."

Successive Republican and Democratic city administrations have grown government, and Russell believes

If elected, Russell promises to "apply a meat cleaver" to the budget and city bureaucracy, demonstrating to Norwich residents that the Libertarian solution of small government is the key to economic growth and prosperity.

the time is ripe for Libertarians to take the reins of power in Norwich and turn it around.

To qualify for the ballot, Norwich law requires petitions with 30 verifiable signatures for candidates for treasurer and the board of education — and 38–48 for those running for city council. Russell plans to complete this paperwork well ahead of the Aug. 7 deadline.

If elected, Russell promises to "apply a meat cleaver" to the budget and city bureaucracy, demonstrating to Norwich residents that the Libertarian solution of small government is the key to economic growth and prosperity.

Russell's agenda includes:

- Cutting down the city budget, currently projected to reach \$206 million, to 25 percent of its size.
- Reducing property taxes by 50 percent in the first year and another 50 percent in the second.
- Eliminating the Norwich Community Development Corporation, which, in Russell's words, has done "a lousy job attracting business to the city."

- Eliminating the job of city manager and other layers of unnecessary bureaucracy.

Russell said that he would like to launch the process of privatization in the school district, but acknowledged that implementing such a plan would require similar pro-market reforms at the Connecticut state level.

To bring about real change, Russell would need cooperation from throughout the city government, so Russell is urging voters to elect the entire "Team Russell," without leaving any holdovers from previous administrations.

"Once we take Norwich, people will see what can be done, and we'll be able to expand our agenda to a different level," Russell said. "Libertarians need to start making a name for themselves locally."

Russell thinks voters may be primed to look outside the traditional Democrat-Republican matrix and reach out to Libertarians for answers because of an encouraging showing by independent candidates in a recent election. In the 2009 Norwich mayoral race, an independent candidate came in a very strong second, with 32 percent of the vote, ahead of the Democratic candidate's 17 percent, and within striking distance of the Republican winner's 47 percent.

These results, according to Mr. Russell, indicate that Norwich is ready for a political alternative to shrink government, allow the private sector to grow, and restore the free market.

"We need real change in Norwich," he points out. "And with my Libertarian team, it is coming."

It seems a bit backwards that peaceful people should have to ask permission from an **insanely warmongering government** to buy tools to defend themselves.

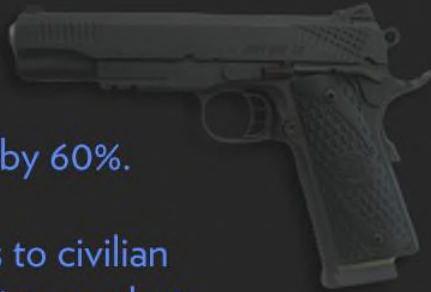
End the wars.



Cut military spending by 60%.



Eliminate all obstacles to civilian gun ownership, including costly & ineffective background checks.



Libertarians

Wake the Sleeping Giant



f /Libertarians

Facebook fan growth

...continued from page 1

Tapping into a variety of skills, as well as content and style, is central to Vohra's social media strategy.

"We have people who really know how to create edgy, in-your-face viral material," he said. "We have people who know how to make slick graphics with a very polished, official look. We have people who know how to reach out to the right, the left, the liberty movement, and the apathetic. This gives the 350,000 people on our page a wide variety of what to share with their friends and family."

According to Vohra, the idea of crowdsourcing came from discussions with LP Virginia Chair Chuck Moulton, who set up the original national LP page.

"He pointed out that the Libertarian Party has a ton of talent that we had not really started to tap, and that we now had the technology to do so," Vohra said. "With Chuck's help, as well as feedback from our first round of volunteers, we were able to build systems that allow a large number of people with different areas of expertise to collaborate. Graphic designers, copywriters, essay writers, and social media experts can work together to produce our content. Many of our volunteers are actually social media professionals with years

of experience, and they were extremely helpful with logistics."

The brief, punchy messages on the LP Facebook page aim to promote the benefits of major cuts to government, especially those supported by LP candidates.

"Electing candidates is a means to an end," Vohra said. "The goal is to cut government and increase liberty."

It's not always easy, though, to get that across to activists, many of whom have had little exposure to political commentary outside of that which advocates Big Government.

"The biggest drawback is the training time required to help people learn to stay on message," Vohra said. "The media and status quo parties are experts in distracting people from focusing on major cuts to government. It can be tough to not get distracted, but our more experienced volunteers are extremely helpful in that area."

While the decentralized participation that social networking makes possible creates challenges, it also helps to solve problems by allowing those who have demonstrated an understanding of the task at hand to help lead the newcomers. The contributors check each other's work.

The high participation rate on the LP Facebook page also makes it possible to tell

continued on page 7...

"If elected, I will immediately sponsor legislation to **eliminate** the **DHS** (they have served their purpose), the **TSA** (let the airlines take care of their own security), the **EPA**, the **DEA** and the **IRS**."

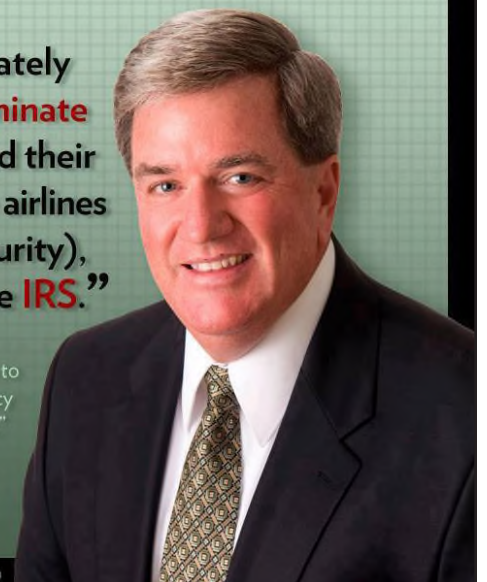
"Also, I will immediately sponsor legislation to cut the budget of every other federal agency by 10% each year over the next four years."



-- Bill Slantz
U.S. Congress
8th District, Missouri

f /BillSlantzForCongress

www.billslantz.com



"SO WHY IS IT THAT VIRGINIA

STILL HAS AN INCOME TAX? REPEALING IT WOULD BOOST OUR STATE'S ECONOMY TREMENDOUSLY, ALLOWING FOR MORE SAVINGS, MORE JOBS, AND MORE LIBERTY.

IF ELECTED, I WILL IMMEDIATELY SPONSOR LEGISLATION TO END THE STATE INCOME TAX.

CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN,
LIBERTARIAN FOR VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
55TH DISTRICT.



"We should not be stealing from struggling families to help developers and allow government to gamble on business proposals that private investors wouldn't touch with a ten foot pole.

Cut taxes and eliminate corporate aid.

Follow the constitution and put Americans first."

Matthew Hess

Libertarian
Candidate for
Governor of Colorado



f /MatthewHessLibertarian

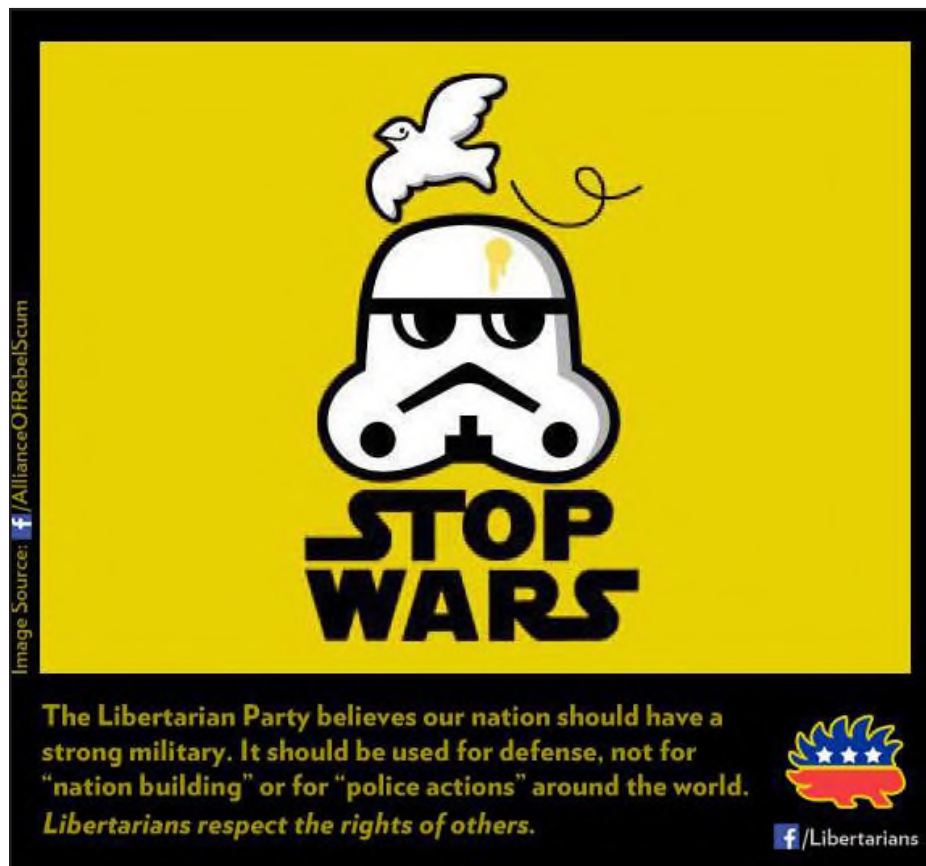




Violates your privacy.

Has a hissy fit when Edward Snowden violates their Privacy

If you want the Patriot Act repealed,
vote for a Libertarian.



STOP WARS

The Libertarian Party believes our nation should have a strong military. It should be used for defense, not for "nation building" or for "police actions" around the world. Libertarians respect the rights of others.

[/Libertarians](#)

Facebook fan growth

...continued from page 6

quickly which content people find the most engaging.

"The great thing about Facebook is that we get immediate feedback," Vohra

said. "We can see likes, shares, and comments, which help us continuously refine our outreach materials."

The variety offered on the national LP Facebook page helps LP affiliates too.

"Our Facebook experimentation has been useful for state and county LP Face-



Anthony Tellez

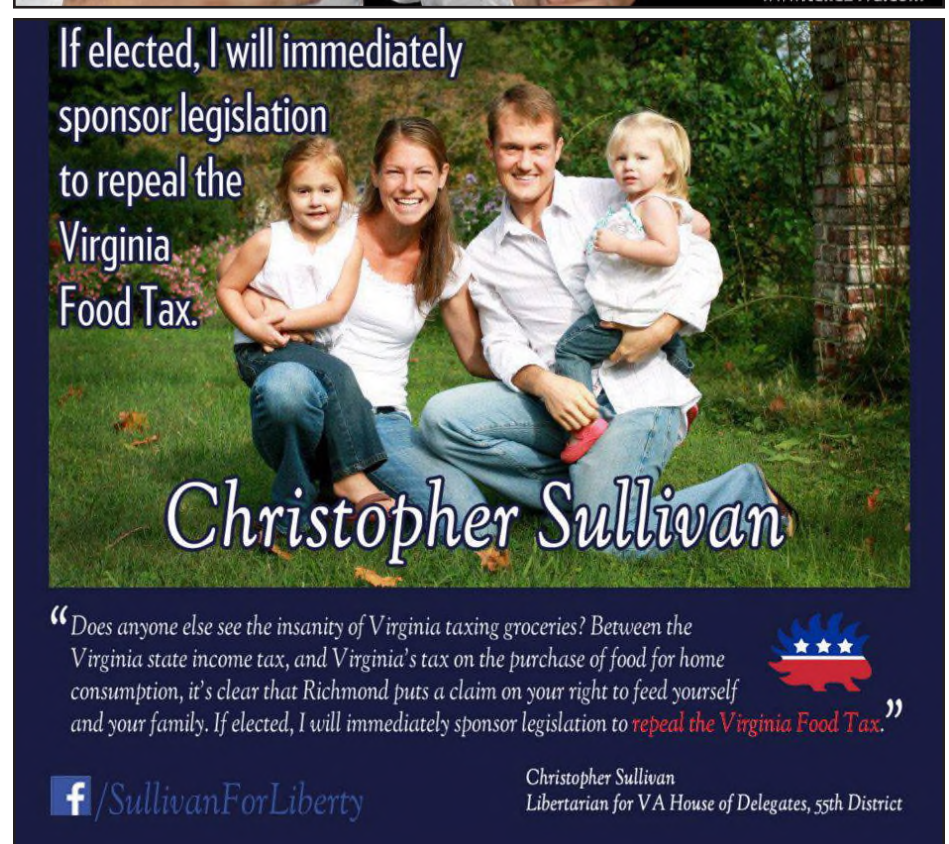
"The War on Drugs costs American taxpayers \$500 per second.

If elected I will introduce legislation to end the high price paid by the citizens of Virginia in both taxes and personal freedom."

Anthony Tellez
Libertarian Candidate for
Virginia House of Delegates, District 53

[f /Tellez4VA](#)

www.tellez4va.com



If elected, I will immediately sponsor legislation to repeal the Virginia Food Tax.

Christopher Sullivan

"Does anyone else see the insanity of Virginia taxing groceries? Between the Virginia state income tax, and Virginia's tax on the purchase of food for home consumption, it's clear that Richmond puts a claim on your right to feed yourself and your family. If elected, I will immediately sponsor legislation to **repeal the Virginia Food Tax.**"

Christopher Sullivan
Libertarian for VA House of Delegates, 55th District

[f /SullivanForLiberty](#)

book pages," Vohra said. "Sometimes, what doesn't work for national works well for states. We have also had some success driving volunteers to state parties. But the bigger change has been ideas from others

that have helped our social media outreach. The game *Who's Driving?*, which LNC Executive Director Carla Howell developed, has been critical to shaping our current social media outreach."



Libertarian Party speaks out!

Recent news releases
published at LP.org

Govt. snooping demands immediate downsizing of all spy agencies

Repeal Patriot Act, FISA, NDAA

Taking its cue from George Orwell's famous novel *1984*, the Obama administration is mining customer data from major Internet vendors and collecting telephone records of millions of U.S. citizens indiscriminately — regardless of whether they are suspected of a crime.

The National Security Agency (NSA) is currently collecting the records of U.S. customers of Verizon under a top secret court order issued in April. It is requiring Verizon to give the NSA information on all telephone calls in its system — and also demanding Verizon's silence on the order.

The secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court



Tube, and Apple. Under a program called PRISM, they're extracting audio and video chats, photographs, emails, documents, and connection logs that enable government analysts to trace a user's network of associates.

granted the order to the FBI on April 25, giving the government unlimited authority to obtain the data for a specified three-month period ending on July 19.

In addition, the NSA and the FBI are tapping directly into the servers of nine leading U.S. Internet companies: Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, Pal-Talk, AOL, Skype, You-

"How many violations of the Bill of Rights will it take for civil libertarians to abandon their support of a president who has not only continued — but escalated — the sins of the Bush administration?" asked Geoffrey J. Neale, chair of the Libertarian Party.

The FBI/NSA's broad surveillance of domestic calls is allegedly authorized by the Patriot Act and by 2008 reforms of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Then—U.S. Sen. Barack Obama voted in favor of the reforms.

"Full repeal of FISA, the Patriot Act and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and massive downsizing of federal spy agencies is the only answer," said Neale. "Not maybe. Not later. Now. This will stop the incremental yet rapid decline of our privacy and civil liberties, put a check on government power, and help to ensure that every American is afforded due process and justice if charged with a crime."

LP statement on Boston bombing, Syria, foreign intervention

The Libertarian Party extends heartfelt sympathies to the surviving families of the victims and all who were harmed by the senseless and violent bombing in Boston on April 15 and its aftermath. We applaud the efforts of Boston-area residents and law enforcement officials who helped to remove the immediate threat of additional harm from the alleged perpetrators.

While we are relieved that the Justice Department has assured Americans that the surviving bombing suspect will receive a civilian trial, we are troubled that, according to news reports, he was not read his Miranda rights prior to questioning. Regardless of the severity of the crime, upholding individual rights is paramount. We call for ensuring that all criminal suspects, including alleged terrorists, are Mirandized and offered the right to an attorney before questioning. We also call for ensuring that all such interrogations be, without exception, properly monitored and videotaped.

We are further troubled by reports of martial law tactics, including the alleged orders issued by Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick for residents to stay inside their homes and for stores to stay closed. Visiting homes to inquire of suspect sightings or politely requesting that residents

While we strenuously condemn acts of violence against innocent men, women, and children as occurred on April 15, we also condemn the U.S. government's routine perpetration of such injustice on others throughout the world.

stay off the streets — without any threat of force — is a reasonable measure for authorities to take during an emergency. However, threatening force in any way is a breach of our constitutional rights and is unacceptable. We call for laws that impose criminal penalties on any government official who oversteps his or her authority or who in any way diminishes our constitutional protections.

While we strenuously condemn acts of violence against innocent men, women, and children as occurred on April 15, we also condemn the U.S. government's routine perpetration of such injustice on others throughout the world. As one example, U.S. drone strikes kill many times more civilians than terrorists.

Such disregard for human life is morally reprehensible. In addition, it unnecessarily engenders enemies of the United States.

Spokespersons for the military claim that the federal government does whatever

it can to minimize civilian casualties. Perhaps it does from their perspective. But from an honest and realistic perspective, their perpetual calls for military action do not minimize civilian casualties, but instead increase them.

So that they may avoid harming innocent others, the Libertarian Party urges President Barack Obama and members of Congress to:

1. Stay out of foreign conflicts, including in Syria. The goal of our military should be defense only, not attempting to brutalize the world into acceptance of our cultural values, to impose "democracy" (its practice in U.S. elections leaves much to be desired), to control foreign resources, or to intervene for other purposes.
2. Immediately end all trade sanctions, including sanctions against Iran and North Korea. Sanctions all too often end in war, as was the case in Iraq. Sanctions also lead to the starvation and death of the innocent who are blocked from food and medicine. They furthermore disrupt the peaceful influence of international businessmen and women who have every incentive to avoid war and violence.
3. Begin to shut down the vast majority of our foreign military bases and bring our troops home. Our wealthy allies can pay

continued on page 14...

Don't waste time on IRS investigation, abolish it and income tax NOW

The presidential administrations of Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton, and, now, Barack Obama have all been caught using the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to target political enemies.



As long as we have the IRS — and the income tax — we should expect more presidents to use their power to silence and intimidate free voices. No IRS investigation or firing of a few scapegoats will change that.

"We must abolish the IRS and end any need for a regulatory agency that snoops into people's private lives," said Libertarian Party Executive Director Carla Howell. "We must draw back total federal spending to the level of 1992, which is more than enough to fulfill the government's constitutional duties to protect our life, liberty, and property. This will allow us to balance the budget immediately, end the federal income tax completely, and

continued on page 9...

Libertarian Solution: End the income tax

By Harry Browne

Harry Browne (1933–2006) was the Libertarian Party presidential candidate in 1996 and 2000, an investment advisor and a New York Times best-selling author whose 12 books on finance, personal freedom and politics sold over 2 million copies.



Harry Browne

on which the politicians refuse to consider legislation. Your entire life is fair game for them to enact rules.

Benefits

Imagine what would happen if we repealed all forms of federal income tax — including the personal income tax, the corporate income tax, Social Security, the estate tax, and the gift tax. A world of benefits would quickly come in the wake of repealing these taxes.

The first benefit is the most obvious: all the money you're paying in income taxes will be yours — to spend, to save, to give away as you see fit, not as the politicians think is best for you, best for the nation, and — most of all — best for themselves.

You are the one who gets up every day to go to work. You're the one who puts in long hours. You're the one who makes your job what it is.

What have the politicians done to earn that money?

Absolutely nothing.
What claim should they have on your earnings?

Absolutely none.

When we repeal the income tax, all that you pay now in income and Social Security taxes will be yours at last — to do with as you see fit.

If yours is the average American family, that means over \$10,000 a year that's been going to the politicians will stay in your hands. They won't have a claim on a single dollar you earn.

So what will you do with that money when they no longer take it away from you?

- Will you put your children in private schools — where you could get exactly the kind of education you believe best for them?
- Will you start that business you've always dreamed of?
- Will you move into a better neighborhood, take your family on a better vacation, arrange a much more comfortable and much more secure retirement?
- Will you help your church or your fa-

vorite cause or charity in a way you've never been able to do before?

What will you do with that money?

At last, it will all be yours — and the government will no longer have a claim on it.

Other Benefits

That in itself is reason enough to want to end the income tax. But here are three additional benefits:

- There will be a similar increase in take-home pay for everyone you do business with — your customers or your employer — meaning that people will have more money to spend on what you have to offer.
- A similar increase in take-home pay will occur throughout America, unleashing the biggest boost in prosperity that America has ever seen. There will be a job for everyone who can work and charity for everyone who can't.
- Your life will be your own again: an end to government snooping into your finances, an end to keeping books for the

continued on page 13...

Abolish IRS NOW

...continued from page 8

give back an average of more than \$12,000 to every family in America."

"We don't need an income tax, and we certainly don't need the IRS," Howell said.

The Libertarian Party is the only political party in America calling for both dismantling the IRS altogether and dramatically and immediately downsizing Big Government.

"The Libertarian Party is running candidates to dramatically downsize the federal government," Howell said. "We can cut federal spending by 50 percent, or even 90 percent, and Americans will be better for it. We can end the personal income tax, the corporate income tax, the death tax, and all federal payroll taxes. There will be no need for the IRS, nor any substitute agency."

"Ending the income tax, abolishing the IRS, and cutting federal spending to the level of 1992 means no more deficit spending," Howell said. "This will stop inflation and stabilize prices. Even more

importantly, it will transfer wealth out of the wasteful, dysfunctional and destructive government sector and into the productive private sector, resulting in a bounty of new jobs and prosperity for Americans."

"We will make living in America and doing business in America much better," Howell said. "Individuals, businesses, and political organizations will all be safe from government interrogation and free to express their political views. It will dramatically increase the wealth of the private sector and inspire hundreds of billions of dollars in investment in small businesses and American jobs."

Another benefit of abolishing the IRS is that it would become far more difficult to fund massive interventionist military presence and warfare around the globe.

"It will also require our military budgets to go way down, which currently encourage overseas meddling and war," Howell said. "We get rid of the IRS, we get rid of the income tax, we dramatically downsize federal spending and taxation, and America and the world will be better for it."

Illegal power grabs: One more reason to abolish IRS

It's bad enough that Congress has relegated to the IRS extraordinary authority to create regulations. It's worse that, even when Congress refrains, the IRS is creating new regulations and taxes in defiance of the law.

According to attorney Allen Buckley, who was the 2004 and 2008 Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate in Georgia, the IRS reached new levels of power grabbing in 2010, aimed at tax preparers.

"After eight unsuccessful attempts to pass bills that would have permitted the IRS to regulate the tax return preparation industry, the U.S. Treasury Department issued regulations based on recommendations of the IRS that permit the IRS to



Allen Buckley

license many tax return preparers and to assess annual fees," Buckley said. "There is absolutely no statutory basis for this regulatory scheme."

Thankfully, the IRS licensing mandate was struck down in a lawsuit (the IRS is appealing). A lawsuit challenging the fees was dismissed, but another one, brought by Buckley, is pending in U.S. District Court.

According to Buckley, the Obama administration is creating law through regulations "to a level not seen since the days of FDR. Regulations issued without statutory authority are now a common practice."

Should Buckley's lawsuit win, it would reverse the IRS fees now assessed on the tax preparer industry. But, as long as there's an IRS, more power grabs are to be expected. One more reason to abolish the IRS.

AFFILIATE News And Events

Affiliate news and events are provided to *LP News* by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Iowa

44% growth in registered Libertarians

WOW! That shows how much energy and enthusiasm we had at the state convention held on March 31. Special thanks to Dianna Visek, Libertarian Party Regional Representative, for being our guest speaker.

Many Iowans are finding that Libertarian Party ideas are very appealing, as registered Libertarian voters in Iowa **increased by 44 percent in the past year**. Paid Iowa and national Libertarian Party members increased by 17 percent in the past year. We had several people in attendance at the convention who indicated that they are considering running for public office in 2013 or 2014. Officers were elected to lead the state party for the next two years: Keith Laube, chair; Ed Wright, advocacy and public policy chair and vice chair; Bill Steppan, secretary; Tim Hird, treasurer; Austin Griffith, membership and development; and Chris Honeck, campaigns and elections. Special thanks to Ed Wright for serving two terms as the state party chair.

The Iowa Libertarian Party will work to accomplish the following goals in the next year:

- Update the party website
- Increase communication with registered Libertarian voters through social media
- Increase the number of Libertarian registered voters and party members
- Increase the number of Libertarian candidates

It is a great time to be a Libertarian!

Kentucky

Libertarian registration increases 46.6%

The LPKY has now had good voter registration data for a year, between May 22, 2012, and May 21, 2013. These numbers are provided by the State Board of Elections. The LPKY saw

a significant jump in voter registration totals.

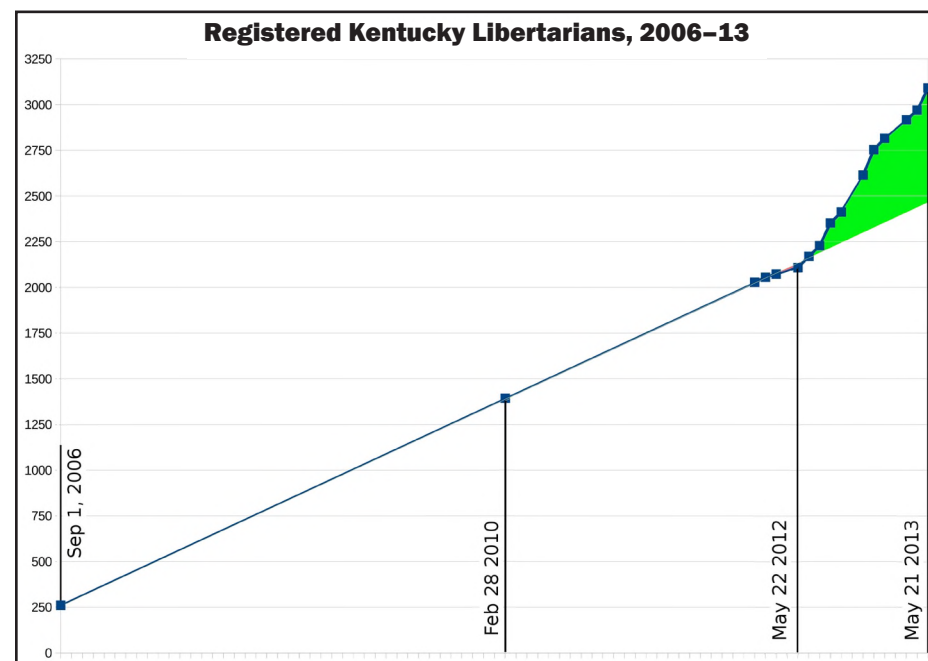
Statewide registration increased 2.61 percent. Democrat registration increased 1.21 percent. Republican registration increased 3.80 percent. **Libertarian registration increased 46.60 percent.**

This clearly shows that we have momentum in our favor. Now, we need to capitalize upon it. We need more people. We need this trend to continue. Many still don't even know how to register to vote as a Libertarian.

Kentucky law did not provide for tracking of voters who sought to be registered as Libertarian until Jan. 1, 2006. The party first bought a copy of the statewide list in Sept. 2006 (the graph's first data point), and has purchased copies in 2010 and 2012. The LPKY will continue to monitor and report our progress as we increase our numbers statewide.

Other noteworthy things:

We now have five of six district parties operational. The fifth district is forming now. We have two county parties operational, in Campbell and Boone counties, and have Kenton County spinning up in May. A few other counties (Davies, Fayette, Grant, Pendleton, Marshall, and Warren counties) have expressed interest in starting the affiliation process as well. This is a very good time to get involved in the LPKY at a local level, as we grow the



The Missoula County LP in Montana participated in the Missoula St. Patrick's Day parade with this entry promoting the party.

party. You can find a local meeting on our website, LPKY.org.

As the weather gets nicer, we'll use the LP door hangers we have to promote the party to unaffiliated voters, wherever people want to do the work — 4.5 hours of door hanging will count as a service exemption in lieu of payment of annual dues (\$30). The area can be your local voting precinct. This is a great way to spend a few hours helping to expose other people who aren't blinded by the old parties to the Libertarian Party.

Montana

Working to defeat "top-two" legislation

The last day to file for local elections in Montana is June 27. Several people have indicated a willingness to become candidates. Contact your local county elections office for more information.

In March, the Missoula County LP had an entry in the Missoula St. Patrick's Day parade. The Ravalli County LP had a parade entry in the May 27 Corvallis Memorial Day Parade. Thanks to Jeff Fisher for his help. In 2008, the Ravalli County LP had taken best of class and best of show in the parade.

The Montana LP attended several hearings of the Montana Legislature this year. On Feb. 19, 2012, Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Dan Cox helped defeat H.B. 439, the first of two "top-two" bills introduced in this year's session. The other top-two bill, S.B. 408, was streamrolled through both House and Senate committees and will be decided by the voters of Montana in 2014.

The Montana Legislature has the option of bypassing the governor's desk when the majority feels a governor's veto may happen. The Republicans were the majority, but didn't have the votes for veto override power. The MTLF put together

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AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

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some information on the top-two concept and distributed copies to all 150 legislators. Republicans in Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona all opposed top-two. State Chair Mike Fellows spoke against S.B. 408 in the House State Administration committee in April. We have a lot of work ahead of us on this issue. For full details, see the article on page 14.

People willing to donate on this issue can visit MTLP.org for more information.

We are working on some meetings this summer, and getting some booths at local county fairs, including Gallatin, Missoula, Ravalli, Flathead, and Yellowstone. If you want to help in these outreach projects, contact the MTL.

New Mexico

New website, Facebook page, e-newsletter

The New Mexico Libertarian Party elected a new executive committee at its annual convention on May 4. Serving as chair is Mike Blessing; as vice chair, Elizabeth Hanes; as secretary, Eliseva Levin; and, as treasurer, Allen Cogbill. Newly elected Central Committee members include Mike McConnell, Marty Swinney, Ron Bjornstad, Bruce Levin, Sherry Heim, and Lee Hanes.

Also at the convention, webmaster Nick del Castillo was recognized for designing a new website, complete with new state party logo and collateral images. The New Mexico LP recently debuted a new Facebook page and soon will begin publishing an electronic newsletter to keep members

Want even more frequent updates from LP Headquarters?

Become a monthly pledger and receive *Liberty Pledge*.

Your monthly contributions will be used to grow the LP and make it stronger.

Visit www.lp.org/contribute to make your pledge today!

and non-members alike informed of LPNM events and activities around the state.

North Carolina

Libertarian registration surpasses 20,000

20,000! That's right, the number of registered Libertarians in North Carolina, according to the NC Board of Elections, crossed the 20,000 mark recently. Our next challenge is to get these new members active and communicating with the party. Ideas welcome.

Please "like" our Facebook page: facebook.com/LPofNC

The NC Democrats are only about 800 likes ahead of us, and if we can surpass them we will broadcast it across North Carolina and beyond. Despite which state you're from, please like our page.

LPNC Convention was held on June 7, 8, and 9 in Flat Rock, NC. Flat Rock is in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the perfect place for a long summer weekend. Michael Cloud, Evan McMahon, Micheal Pearlmutter, Brett Bittner, and Carla Howell all presented.

LPNC has been working with the office of NC Rep. Paul Stam to draft legislation to initiate a (very narrow) school voucher plan for less fortunate children. Not exactly what the LPNC would have proposed, but a step in the right direction.

Mitch Bridges, our intern from Appalachian State University, has finished his internship and is now becoming involved in other areas of the party.

Buncombe County (the Asheville area) is our electoral target for 2013. Buncombe has one of our highest concentrations of Libertarian voters, and five seats are available. Because of a lawsuit with the state and the Republican governor, House, and Senate, the Republicans have announced they will run no candidates. Offer accepted!

Ohio

Preparing for 2014 national convention

The LPO had its most successful state conference in memory. More than 60 people attended

various events on April 26 and April 27 in Granville, Ohio.

On Friday night, the LPO hosted a special event at the Buxton Inn, with Judge James Gray as the headliner. On Saturday, the LPO conference was held across the street at the Granville Inn. The morning started off with an annual report from state chair Kevin Knedler, and was followed by Division reports from directors Aaron Harris, Brad Lowry, Bob Bridges, Michael Johnson, and Joe Hassen. The balance of the day featured various seminars and workshops. Our annual awards presentation was held at the luncheon. Special thanks to LNC Chairman Geoffrey Neale and his wife Nancy for attending the Ohio Conference.

July 27 is the date for the annual LPO cookout and fundraiser. It will again be held at the Tiller Lane office complex. Starting time will be 4 p.m. Finance Director Joe Hassen will be the lead on this fun event. Details and pricing will be announced soon. If you want more information, go to LPO.org or contact Joe at Joe.Hassen@lpo.org.

Political Director Bob Bridges and Deputy Director Paul Hinds are busy networking with potential 2014 candidates. They will also be conducting candidate training workshops during 2013. It's important that the candidates be prepared and start their petitioning in summer 2013. For more details, contact Bob and Paul via email at candidates@lpo.org.

Congratulations to new LPO IT Director Michael Johnston. With any volunteer organization, there is going to be turnover. Fortunately, the Ohio team is building a bench to address these challenges. Michael is our fifth IT Director in three years, but is ready for the challenge. His main focus will be the Libertas IT project launch. This will include a new website and database.

A reminder that the LP National Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio, in 2014. During the recent conference in Granville, LNC Chairman Geoffrey Neale and National Convention Chair Nancy Neale toured the downtown Columbus Hyatt and area attractions. They were joined by LPO Field Development Director Brad Lowry. State Chair Kevin Knedler joined them for dinner on Thursday night.

For answers to questions, please email the LPO at info@lpo.org.

For more details on the Ohio Libertarian Party, go to LPO.org.

Texas

Looking for Lone Star liberty candidates

The party is currently interviewing candidates for executive director. More than 40 candidates have been considered for the position. It is expected that the party's state committee (SLECT) will make a decision on this very important item at the June 29 meeting in Waco.

The critical concern is funding. The party is making progress on its fundraising effort to make the executive director position viable.

"Since 2004, we have proven that a capable and effective executive director is an essential component of supporting our candidates, local leaders, membership, and activists," LP Texas Chair Pat Dixon said. "I am confident that the 'LAUNCH 2014' campaign can grow the party and set new records in the 2014 election, if we can close the fundraising gap to hire an executive director on June 29."

The Libertarian Party of Texas has a tradition of putting more Libertarians on the ballot than any other state. The "Launch 2014" campaign hopes to break all previous records.

The party is challenged this year with a significantly compressed schedule. The state legislature passed new election laws in the 2013 session that would move filing deadlines and the state convention date earlier. The business of recruiting candidates will be much shorter.

Regional conferences are also being planned for the fall to support candidates and county leaders. Depending on state party finances, the intent is to hold day-long conferences in four or more locations around the state.

Texans who are interested in representing the Libertarian Party on the ballot are encouraged to contact Heather Fazio at (512) 291-6671 or Heather@LPTexas.org. Candidate resources can be found at our website, www.LPTexas.org.

If you are in a county where no county organization exists, the party is always looking for new leadership to help at the local level. Libertarians interested in serving as county chair can contact state chair Pat Dixon at (512) 771-3936 or Chair@LPTexas.org.

GOP allies in MI courts subvert justice to block LP competition

On May 1, Judges John Rogers, Damon Keith, and Boyce Martin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit upheld a Michigan district court decision that barred 2012 Libertarian presidential nominee Gov. Gary Johnson from the ballot, striking a blow against ballot access and voter choice.

Counsel for the Libertarian National Committee, Attorney Gary Sinawski, filed for a rehearing on May 15.

Republicans operatives and their allies in government are concocting excuses to block Libertarian competition. In 2012, Republican Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, through a series of unfair rulings and delays, blocked Gov Gary Johnson from appearing on Michigan's general election ballot.

On Sept. 6, U.S. District Court Judge Paul Borman upheld her ruling — with a lie.

Johnson had been on the Republican ballot in the primary before changing

These public officials, along with the Republican Party, subverted the rule of law by keeping 2012 Libertarian Party presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson off the Michigan ballot in the November election — in a callous display of indifference to voter rights.



Ruth Johnson
Michigan Secretary
of State



Judge Paul Borman
Eastern District
of Michigan



Judge John Rogers
U.S. Court of Appeals,
Sixth Circuit



Judge Damon Keith
U.S. Court of Appeals,
Sixth Circuit



Judge Boyce Martin
U.S. Court of Appeals,
Sixth Circuit

his party affiliation to Libertarian. Borman used Michigan's "sore loser" law, which prohibits candidates from running on a party ticket once they've been on the primary ballot with another political party, as his reason to deny Johnson's ballot access. But the "sore loser" law has never been upheld in Michigan, nor in any state. Many candidates over the last 100 years have appeared on presidential ballots despite being in the same circumstances as Johnson.

To justify his ruling, Borman cited the case of 1980 presidential candidate

John Anderson, who first ran as a Republican and later as an Independent and set precedent that the "sore loser" statute did not apply in the presidential race. Borman asserted, however, that the case did not establish precedent because Anderson had not actually appeared on the Republican primary ballot.

As Richard Winger, publisher of Ballot Access News, pointed out, this assertion is false.

"Anderson's name did appear on the Republican presidential primary ballot in 1980 and his votes were counted," Winger

wrote. "John Anderson appeared on the primary ballot and polled 48,947 votes, 8% of the total. And he also appeared on the November ballot that year in Michigan as a minor party nominee."

Winger noted that a valid method for independent candidates to appear on the Michigan presidential ballot had been established by the 1976 campaign of Eugene McCarthy and the 1980 campaign of Gus Hall.

Winger also pointed out that the "sore loser" statute was not applied to the presidential campaign of Theodore Roosevelt. Only in 2012, against Johnson, did a court rule that "sore loser" laws apply to presidential primaries.

The stepped-up Republican attacks on Libertarian candidates seen in 2012 is a sign that Libertarian ideas are gaining acceptance — and votes. The Libertarian Party plans to continue to fight GOP assaults and to give voters a choice for much less government and more freedom.

Gov. Johnson campaign takes on Commission on Presidential Debates

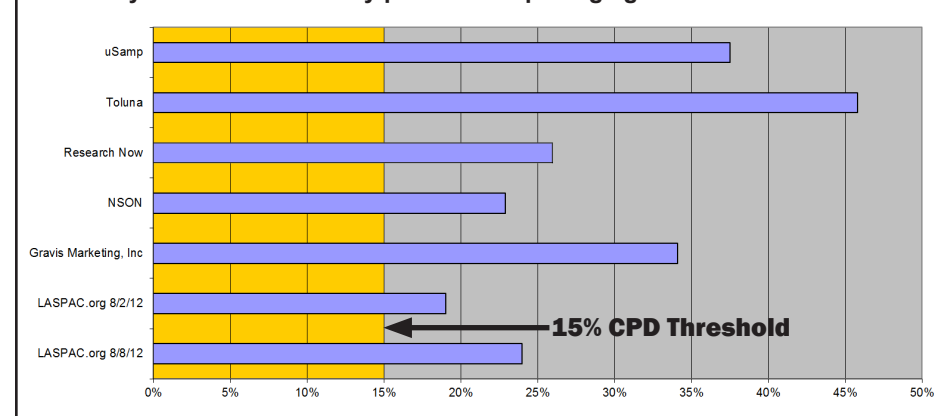
Gov. Gary Johnson, the 2012 Libertarian Party presidential nominee, has taken the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) to court for excluding him from all three presidential debates last fall. The CPD excluded Johnson despite his polling above the threshold set by the CPD to qualify candidates for participation.

The CPD requires that presidential candidates poll at 15 percent or higher in five recent polls. Johnson easily exceeded that requirement in seven separate polls.

The CPD's rules did not specify which opposing candidates must be included in the polls, so the Johnson campaign commissioned five separate polling firms to conduct one-on-one polling between Johnson and President Barack Obama. Johnson easily exceeded the CPD's requirement with percentages ranging from 23 to 46.

Two additional polls were conducted by the Libertarian Action Super PAC

Gov. Gary Johnson in two-way presidential polling against Pres. Barack Obama



(LASPAC) headed by Wes Benedict. Johnson polled at 19 percent and 24 percent in the LASPAC polls.

"Our poll used the exact same question as a Gallup poll used in a run-up between Republican Mitt Romney and Democrat Barack Obama, only we substituted Libertarian Gary Johnson's name in place of Romney's," Benedict said.

Excluded from the debates despite

these numbers, the Johnson campaign filed a complaint against the CPD, the Democratic National Committee (DNC), and the Republican National Committee (RNC) on Oct. 18. The complaint argued that the defendants had prohibited Johnson from participation in the debates in order "to conspire and contract between and amongst themselves to monopolize the field in the race for president and vice

president."

The CPD has close ties to the Republican and Democratic parties. The RNC chairman serves on the CPD's board of directors.

Johnson's lawsuit invokes the Sherman Antitrust Act, which was passed in the late 19th century to allow the federal government to regulate against monopolies involved in interstate commerce. The suit alleges that restricting Gary Johnson from the debates qualifies as a "restraint of trade."

Ballot Access News reported on May 31 that the lawsuit remains active, pending in federal court in Orange County, Calif. A status conference is scheduled for July 11.

"Someone has to stand up and call this what it is — a rigged system designed entirely to protect and perpetuate the two-party duopoly," Johnson spokesman Ron Nielson said to *U.S. News & World Report*. "That someone will be the Johnson campaign."

LP signs on to amicus brief in lawsuit to remove limits on political speech

The Libertarian National Committee has signed on to an amicus brief in a lawsuit, *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* (FEC), which challenges the FEC's limits on how much people can contribute to political campaigns.

A favorable ruling could continue the work began by *Citizens United v. FEC* in 2010, further abolishing restrictions on political speech expenditures. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed on Feb. 19 to hear the case in its upcoming term, late in 2013 or early in 2014.

The Libertarian Party stands firmly in favor of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and freedom of the press represented by the First Amendment to the Constitution. A right to free speech is nearly meaningless if it's not accompanied by the right to pay for the dissemination of one's views, which is why the LP platform calls for "the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns."

Incumbent politicians argue that campaign regulations help to create "fairer practices" in the political system. However, Attorney William J. Olson, the author of



Atty. William J. Olson

"One of the dirty little secrets of politics is that incumbents have rigged almost every law that bears on elections to favor establishment candidates."

— Atty. William J. Olson

the amicus brief, says that this argument only veils the desire of incumbent politicians to further stack the electoral deck in their favor.

"One of the dirty little secrets of politics is that incumbents have rigged almost every law that bears on elections to favor establishment candidates," he wrote.

The mainstream media also advocates campaign regulations that, they claim, prevent wealthy interests from dominating politics. In practice, however, campaign finance laws magnify the voices of powerful, moneyed special interests, which are better equipped to both comply with and circumvent the laws, while squelching the voice of everyday citizens.

The mainstream media has a strong incentive to lobby in favor of campaign laws, from which they are exempt.

This gives them a monopoly over unregulated speech when covering campaigns. They are free to cover candidates as much or in any manner they wish. They are free to editorialize in favor of or against particular candidates — while competing campaigns are saddled with contribution limits, restrictions, and reporting requirements.

Campaign regulations further stifle political speech by requiring campaigns to reveal their donors' identity, which the FEC publicizes on the Internet. Media outlets sometimes use this information to publicly attack candidates while their own political agenda remains unexamined.

Campaign finance laws empower the mainstream media to make or break candidates for public office — an extraordinary power that they jealously guard. Libertarian candidates are more often among those they break than those they make.

Olson's amicus brief, representing the LNC and several other groups, aims to correct the unfair advantages enjoyed by incumbents and the media and give donors to campaigns the same unfettered right to express political viewpoints. A favorable ruling on *McCutcheon v. FEC* could have a profound impact on Libertarian campaigns, allowing candidates to receive unlimited donations from wealthy individuals.

Simple and direct Libertarian Solutions win votes

One Libertarian candidate runs for state office on this sales tax cut:

If elected, I'll champion a bill to end the state sales tax — now.

Another Libertarian candidate runs for state office on a different sales tax cut:

If elected, I'll champion a bill to replace 2 percent of the 5 percent state sales tax you now pay with a local sales tax. Officials in the local towns will want to compete for residents to move to, and stay in, their towns. So they'll have incentive to lower the new local sales tax. As a result, the total sales tax you pay will go down.

The first Libertarian Solution to cut taxes is simple. Its meaning is instantly clear. Its benefits are direct and believable.

The second Libertarian Solution to cut taxes is complex and convoluted. You might have to read it twice just to understand how it would work.

You may doubt whether the second tax cut proposal would actually yield a tax cut for you. Maybe the candidate's theory is wrong, and towns won't try to lower the tax. Maybe they'll cut taxes in another

There are many simple, direct, and attractive Libertarian Solutions for shrinking all levels of government: federal, state, and local. A list of examples can be found here: www.lp.org/sample-solutions. If you have ideas for more, please send them to lpolutions@lp.org.

town — but not yours. Maybe you'll end up with higher taxes because politicians will amend the candidate's bill to keep the state sales tax rate at 5 percent — while adding a new local sales tax on top of it.

As a voter, which of these two Libertarian Solutions is more likely to directly benefit you, your family and your community? Which one inspires you more to vote?

Over-complicated, Rube Goldberg solutions leave voters confused, uncertain and uninspired. They're easy to ignore.

Effective Libertarian Solutions are simple and direct enough for a 12-year-old child to understand. Their simplicity makes them far more compelling and memorable.

Simple and direct solutions also save precious time on the campaign trail.

People are busy. Loads of distractions compete for their attention through-

out their day. For many, politics is not a high priority. And even when it is, they have family and work obligations that leave them with precious little time. The only exposure to a candidate they get may come from a sentence they read in a news article, a sound bite on TV or radio, a tweet or a Facebook meme.

That gives a candidate about 15 to 50 words to make his entire campaign pitch. In order to lay out a Libertarian Solution and its benefits in this short segment of time, it must be simple and straightforward. It must deal with a topic that voters already understand so that it doesn't need a lengthy explanation. Otherwise, it simply won't fit, and voters won't get to learn how electing that candidate can make their lives better. The candidate will lose both votes and potential supporters.

This is especially important for Libertarian candidates who typically get less media coverage than their Democratic and Republican opponents.

When candidates run on simple and direct Libertarian Solutions, many more voters will both hear them and remember them. And instead of scratching their heads, they'll be marking their calendars to vote Libertarian on Election Day.

End the income tax

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IRS, an end to fear of an audit, an end to rearranging your financial life to minimize your tax burden.

And there's a fifth benefit that's probably the greatest of all: No longer will the federal government have the resources to run our lives. It will be unable to continue ruining what was once the best health-care system the world has ever known, destroying American education, making millions of people dependent on welfare, subsidizing foreign dictators and meddling in explosive foreign affairs.

Our Chance

Repealing the income tax is the issue on which we can rally Americans to cut government truly to the bone — the bone being the functions authorized in the Constitution. Without the resources to meddle in our lives, the government will have to withdraw to the limits of the Constitution.

And the rewards it offers provide an opportunity to reach all Americans with a message of a better life — when we celebrate Freedom Day instead of Tax Day.

GA Libertarian Bittner

...continued from page 5

referendum that would enable a six-year extension of a 1 percent sales tax that Bittner says is fueling the growth of local government.

"I was the only one of the board to vote against it, and so it passed," Bittner said. "But the debate offered me an opportunity to present the Libertarian Party's view on this issue. And I was happy to see that the ward that I represent voted two-to-one against this extension."

More will still need to be done, Bittner said, so this November he will run again for a full four-year term. His term expires at the end of the year. Bittner won the Marietta School Board Ward 1 seat in a July 31, 2012, special election in which he ran unopposed to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Logan Weber.

Although candidates for the November election have not been announced yet, he suspects that he will face an opponent this time, and that the race will be intense. That is why he believes bold Libertarian ideas will help him get over the top.

"I have already planted the seeds of a proposal to refuse federal funding for our school district altogether," Bittner said. "Conversations have begun."

The Marietta School District comprises 11 schools attended by about 8,200 students. Its current budget is approximately \$100 million, 11 percent of which is provided by the federal government.

"The trick is that federal money comes with many conditions attached that have to do with class sizes, school lunches and so-called lower-performing schools that cost us 14 percent of our budget to implement," Bittner said. "In other words, we have to spend \$14 to get \$11."

He said that this arrangement does not make sense — not only to him, but to many other board members. That is why, in his view, the dialogue on this subject "is moving in the right direction."

In the run-up to the November polls, Bittner said he wants to build alliances to get across the Libertarian message of small government and start acting on it.

"We can't change overnight, but we can do better with a different approach to funding, matriculation, and other issues," Bittner concluded. "We can be moving in the Libertarian direction."

LP battles GOP-sponsored top-two bills in Montana

The Montana Republican Party failed to win the U.S. Senate seat or the governor's seat during the November 2012 election, and is blaming the Libertarian Party for their loss. Recognizing that the LP held the balance of power in Montana's election, the Republicans have decided to sponsor bills creating a top-two primary process, which would eliminate Libertarian competition from the general ballot.

The Montana Libertarian Party has become a powerful deciding force in recent elections. LP gubernatorial candidate Ron Vandevender earned 17,729 votes (3.7 percent), more than double the margin of difference between the Republican and Democratic candidate, and Senate candidate Dan Cox earned 31,287 votes (6.5 percent), 66.7 percent higher than the difference between the Republican and Democratic challengers.

Although Libertarian vote totals had increased by more than 10,000 between the 2010 and 2012 elections, Cox's Republican opponent Rep. Denny Rehberg increased his 2010 totals by only 355 votes. Millions of dollars were spent by Cox's opponents in this race, with Democratic incumbent Jon Tester ultimately prevailing.

This didn't sit well with Montana Republicans, who soon began trying to prevent Libertarians from competing in general elections. The first Republican attempt to pass a top-two bill failed, but the second passed — and will result in a top-two referendum on the 2014 ballot.

Republican Rep. Scott Reichner sponsored the first bill, which would have allowed anyone in the primary who received more than 50 percent to be au-

LP Montana Chair Mike Fellows was present at the Senate hearing, and described it as "a circus," with Democrats pounding on their desks, yelling along with people in the gallery, demanding to be heard.

tomatically elected. That provision fortunately torpedoed the legislation. Several people spoke against this bill, including LP candidate Dan Cox.

A second bill, S.B. 408, is nearly identical to the first, except for the removal of the 50 percent provision. Without public notice for the hearing, the Secretary of State's office was the only opposition presented in its committee hearing. Another bill heard in the same committee would eliminate same-day voting, which would negatively affect the efforts of third parties to rally voter registration and support on Election Day. Both bills passed along party lines and proceeded to the Senate floor.

LP Montana Chair Mike Fellows was present at the Senate hearing, and described it as "a circus," with Democrats pounding on their desks, yelling along with people in the gallery, demanding to be heard. Despite the noise, the Republicans passed S.B. 408. It also passed along predominantly party lines in an executive committee session and in the state House.

Fellows spoke in opposition to S.B. 408 at an April 15 hearing, along with others including the secretary of state, the

League of Women Voters, and the Western Native Voice. It was clear that the bill had been aimed squarely at the Libertarian Party.

Although Fellows had traveled to Helena in order to lobby against S.B. 408, the Republicans were determined to send the issue directly to ballot, because the Democratic governor would have almost certainly vetoed it, and Republicans did not have enough members to override the veto.

Montana Libertarians distributed emails to several members of the House pointing out that Republican Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer had opposed top-two legislation in her own state, and they distributed 150 informational packets opposing the bills to all House and Senate members.

The bill will place a top-two referendum on the general ballot in 2014, and would be devastating for Libertarian Party participation in Montana elections, allowing the Montana Republican Party to eliminate competition from the general election. The Montana LP intends to fight this measure vigorously. Those wishing to donate or help may visit MTLP.org.

Boston bombing

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for their own defense, and our military bases in less friendly areas serve to create more enemies.

4. Immediately end all military alliances, including those associated with NATO. The Cold War is over. We have enough nuclear weapons to destroy every country on earth. No country can reasonably declare war on the United States. The kind of terrorism we deal with cannot be addressed by massive military alliances. If a threat were to arise large enough to require an allied

force to fight it off, we can create a new alliance at that time.

5. Immediately reduce military spending by 60 percent or more. When companies like Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, and Northrup Grumman profit from war, they have a powerful incentive to use their influence to encourage military conflict. Canceling multi-billion-dollar contracts for unneeded fighter planes, ships, and other military equipment will reduce the incentive to lobby for military adventurism. Associated cuts in government spending will reduce the deficit, reduce inflation, and

stimulate the private sector economy, creating job growth.

"The United States' vast military arsenal is much too big, wildly overpriced, and morally unjustifiable. In addition, high government spending to fund the military contributes significantly to inflation and the risk of an economic collapse," said Geoffrey J. Neale, chair of the Libertarian National Committee. "By dramatically reducing military spending and adopting a noninterventionist foreign policy, we will foster peace throughout the world, preserve Americans' wealth, and make America safe."

For Libertarians, best defense is relentless offense

By Carla Howell,
LNC Executive Director

Big Government advocates are pumping out proposals for expanding government every hour of every day. Where are the proposals for *less* government?

Many libertarians today who want much less Big Government are on the defensive. They're fighting to stop more Big Government — rather than advocating measures that will *reduce* Big Government.

Self-described libertarians talk about what's wrong with Big Government, often brilliantly. But they routinely neglect to offer a Libertarian solution to shrink it. To show how to get from today's Big Government to a much smaller government that protects our lives, liberty and property — and no more. To advance a libertarian agenda.

They talk about the Constitution, US history, failed government programs, voting procedures and all variety of subjects with a pro-freedom point of view. But they squander the opportunity to show how we can remove unconstitutional laws and regulations and why doing so will make the lives of everyday Americans dramatically better.

When we play defense, or simply neglect to spell out and call for ways to dismantle Big Government, the only proposals left on the table are those of our Big Government opponents: new taxes, higher taxes, more regulations, more prohibitions, more wars, more Big Government programs, more bureaucracies, higher government spending, and more government debt.

Most newspapers, talk shows, and news reports are devoid of a single proposal to shrink government. Most voters have never heard one.

You may hear talk of “spending cuts.” But almost invariably, the actual proposal being discussed increases government spending!

So long as we allow this to continue, liberty loses. It keeps our Libertarian goal of a small, constitutional government out of reach. It keeps Big Government in the driver's seat — and keeps small government tied and gagged in the trunk.

By neglecting to advance a libertarian agenda, we're actually *helping our Big*



Illustration by Josh Wright for the game *Who's Driving?*, which trains Libertarians to “seize the steering wheel.”

Government opponents. We're allowing them to limit the parameters of political discourse to Big Government — which puts Big Government firmly in the driver's seat. We're helping to condition voters to accept more Big Government — with no alternative in sight.

We should not be surprised that the majority of voters in America — who identify more with Libertarians than they do with either Democrats or Republicans — become complacent, stop voting, or even vote for Big Government candidates because more Big Government is the only choice they ever see.

Libertarians must turn this around. We must show voters how liberty is possible by spelling out an agenda for less government. By constantly putting forth specific proposals, just as our opponents do — but in the opposite direction. And show why they will yield huge benefits for voters and for the people they love and care about.

First, libertarians must wake up to how we're being manipulated by allowing Big Government proposals to dominate political discourse.

Then we must fight back — and turn Big Government conversations on their head! We must go on the offensive

for freedom — and take control. We must put Big Government in the back seat (or leave it at the curb) — and grab the steering wheel!

We must supplant talk of endless Big Government proposals with specific Libertarian solutions to shrink Big Government:

- Dramatically lower taxes.
- Remove government regulations.
- End prohibitions.
- Cancel Big Government programs.
- Withdraw from foreign entanglements.
- Dramatically reduce government spending. Cut NOW!
- Pay off government debt.
- Dismantle thousands of unneeded federal, state and local bureaucracies.
- Repeal thousands of laws. Rip 'em right out of the books!

Then we must show how taking these measures will make Americans freer, safer, more prosperous, better educated, and healthier. Why we'll have more peace, more justice, and more opportunity. In short, how living in the United States

with minimal government will be dramatically better than it is today.

We must pitch Libertarian Solutions persuasively and relentlessly. Our candidates and spokesperson must lead the charge for less government and more liberty. Our activists and supporters must interject Libertarian solutions into their emails, their Facebook posts, their tweets, and their everyday conversations whenever possible.

Going on the offensive creates mandates for less government

By running for office on small government, Libertarian proposals and featuring them prominently in campaigns, elected Libertarians create a *mandate* for implementing those proposals when elected. They can then say, “I got elected on my proposal to [*Libertarian solution to shrink government*], so that's what we're going to do.” This is their most powerful tool for shrinking government while in office.

Without such a mandate, elected Libertarians are much less able to effect change. Special interests, government employees, fellow politicians, and the media will put constant pressure on them to go along with more Big Government. They need a voter mandate to counter this pressure and to advance reductions in government.

Even when not elected, Libertarian candidates create mandates for less government and more freedom by publicizing and gaining acceptance for Libertarian solutions. This can lead to those solutions eventually being enacted into law.

For example, Libertarian candidates have run for office on ending the war on marijuana and on marriage equality. Those prohibitions have since been lifted in a number of states, with many more moving in this direction. Libertarians helped pave the way to freedom simply by running on bold Libertarian Solutions.

The game *Who's Driving?* trains and empowers Libertarians to go on the offensive and to open up an exciting, life-altering conversation for freedom in America.

To learn how to play *Who's Driving?* with your friends and area activists, visit: www.lp.org/whos-driving

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STATE?

A list of Libertarian events can be found online at LP.org/event. You can get more information by visiting the website of your state affiliate. (See a list at LP.org/states.) If there is an event you would like to see listed on the website, please send details to:

EVENTS@LP.ORG

OR CALL THE LP HEADQUARTERS AT
(202) 333-0008

Important Change of Venue Notice July 2013 FreedomFest events moved to Planet Hollywood

3667 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109

There was a last-minute change of venue for this year's *FreedomFest* from Caesar's Palace to **Planet Hollywood** (down the street from Caesar's).

The *Libertarian VIP Wine and Cheese Reception* and the Libertarian National Committee meeting have also been moved to **Planet Hollywood**.

Libertarian Party Events at FreedomFest

Friday, July 12, 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Be Dangerous to Big Government — The Libertarian Challenge

Presented by LNC Chair Geoffrey J. Neale and Executive Director Carla Howell
Sunset 5/6 Room, **Planet Hollywood**

Friday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.

V.I.P. Wine and Cheese Reception

Koi Lounge, **Planet Hollywood**

\$50 per person, includes wine & buffet (net proceeds to benefit the David F. Nolan Building Fund). Donors of \$250 or more to the David F. Nolan Building Fund are invited free of charge.

Please visit www.lp.org/VIP-Reception to register.

Sunday, July 14, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Libertarian National Committee Meeting

Sunset 5/6 Room, **Planet Hollywood**

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Hardy Macia, Libertarian activist and candidate, releases viral video calling for legal home growing of medical marijuana (five days before he died of cancer on May 13)
- Libertarian Arthur Thomas aims to shrink spending, debt in San Antonio
- Florida Libertarian Joseph Wendt nets 43% of vote on platform to abolish his office
- Libertarian Chris Jenner wins college board election in Illinois, hopes to slash millions in spending
- Kansas Libertarians Ogle and Coen garner impressive vote totals in city elections
- Malterer for New Port Richey, FL, city council seeks cuts in business permitting, property taxes
- Overwhelming majority of Libertarians reject revenue-neutral tax proposals in poll
- Libertarian George Brown calls for end to corporate income tax, reducing power of government unions in PA House race
- Libertarian John Wayne Smith aims to downsize government as Florida's governor
- Libertarian Party: Cut government waste to fix dangerous bridges
- Why don't Democrats (and most Republicans) apologize to the American people when the stock market goes up (making Social Security a bad investment)?

Media Buzz About the Libertarian Party

"Looking for the hot new(ish) thing in American politics? Try libertarianism. Yes, that long-dismissed political philosophy that eschews government intervention in favor of individual liberty is again coming into vogue, particularly among young voters."

Washington Post, 6/9/2013

"The Libertarian Party definitely sees the likelihood of major political gains amid the sensational revelations of a widespread surveillance program by the National Security Agency. Gary Johnson, the 2012 Libertarian presidential nominee, and Libertarian Party Executive Director Carla Howell both voiced confidence in interviews with Newsmax on Monday that the ongoing story about the agency's Prism program would boost a political party that champions individual freedoms."

Newsmax, 6/11/2013

"Judge [Jim] Gray's speech was one of the most exciting speeches I'd heard from a Libertarian in a long time — not because I learned anything new about their philosophy — but because, if the Libertarian Party is now thinking this way about policy, it could be in grave danger of being taken seriously, at last."

Huffington Post, 4/25/2013

"Idaho Chairman Rob Oates said the Libertarian Party supports individual liberty and personal responsibility and has become the third largest political party in America. Libertarians support the return of power to individuals and believe the federal government has far exceeded its constitutional obligation."

Idaho State Journal, 4/29/2013

"The Libertarian Party of Kansas has experienced seven consecutive years of increases in its number of registered voters, including approximately 13 percent growth in the past 18 months."

Topeka Capital-Journal, 4/25/2013

"[T]he newest revision to the District's voter registration form includes the Libertarian Party as one of the printed choices. Though they have never held elected office in the District, the Libertarians finally achieved major-party status last year when Bruce Majors, a challenger to Democratic Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, carried enough votes to secure formal recognition for their party organization."

DCist.com, 3/8/2013